UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/329
25 March 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I regret to inform you once again of massacres perpetrated, only a few days ago, by the Rwandan, Burundian and Ugandan aggressors against Congolese civilians in the occupied territory in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo wishes to inform you that more than 250 persons, mostly young people, the elderly and women, have been murdered by the Rwandan, Burundian and Ugandan aggressors during this month, although it is unable to give the exact dates, in the villages of Burhinyi and Ngweshe in South Kivu, which is under occupation.

During these massacres, several houses were burnt down by Rwandan soldiers who, by way of retaliation, fired on sight without warning.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also condemns other massacres perpetrated on 25 March 1999 in the village of Magunga, not far from the town of Uvira, which has been occupied by aggressor troops. Once again, 100 Congolese civilians, mostly old people, women and children, were murdered by the Rwandan, Burundian and Ugandan aggressors.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo notes that, since the beginning of the war of aggression, several massacres have been committed with impunity by the aggressors. This is an obvious and serious violation of the relevant provisions of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols to those Conventions. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo reiterates its call for an investigation into all these violations of international humanitarian law with a view to prosecuting the guilty parties.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) André Mwamba KAPANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative